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18 July 1979

CYPRIOT

- I. Following strong Turkish rejection of a UN proposal for Cypriot self-determination, the British are now proceeding unilaterally with the first part of their plan.
 - A. Under UK public and Conservative Party pressure, the Government has sent legal expert Lord Radcliffe to Cyprus, preparatory to drafting a constitution.
 - B. Meanwhile, Kirkpatrick believes an ultimate solution might be the island's partition between Greece and Turkey, and holds that a resettlement of 30,000 each way would physically separate the island's 400,000 Greeks from the 130,000 Turks.
- II. Meanwhile, the Greek Government is "facing a major storm" over the Cypriot issue, with Karamanlis' opposition demanding a special session of parliament.
 - A. Karamanlis plans an appeal to the UN, and reportedly is considering closer relations with Tito and Nasser and even approaches to the Soviet Bloc for support.
- III. The Turks, in turn, have been strengthened in their adamant stand by recent unequivocal support from Pakistan.
 - A. They argue that a change in Cypriot status quo would also require reconsideration of the Dodecanese and Thrace.
 - B. Indeed, the Turks are propagandizing their minority in Thrace at present, and the first border incident in years occurred in early July.
 - C. General Templer, back from Ankara, believes the Turks would not mind "taking a Greek" at the border.

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NSC BRIEFING

18 JULY 1956

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CYPRUS

1. In a new effort at breaking the Cyprus deadlock, London is proceeding unilaterally to draft a "self-government" constitution for the island. This unilateral move follows quick Turkish rejection in

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B. This move, which does not involve consultation with the exiled Cypriot nationalist leader, Archbishop Makarios, was forced

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3. The Athens government, in turn, is anxious to find a solution to the Cyprus problem, but is limited in maneuverability by the strong emotions that Cyprus has aroused in Greece. The government's immediate plan is to press for full-scale UN consideration of the question.

A. Athens must continue to follow the Cypriot nationalists in demanding self-determination as soon as possible and a place for Makarios in the negotiations.

B. Failure to make progress in satisfying Greek and Cypriot aspiration threatens the life of the pro-American government of prime Minister Karamanlis. Foreign Minister Averoff has told Ambassador Cannon that the "government is facing a major storm" with the opposition demanding a special parliamentary session. This immediate crisis was precipitated by widespread Greek belief that the US is supporting the current British plan for a constitution.

C. Karamanlis is reported considering a new policy of closer relations with Tito and Nasr, as well as possible approaches to the Soviet Bloc.

4. Turkey is, in many respects, the key to the problem. Ankara favors the status quo, and is determined that Cyprus shall not fall into Greek hands at any time. This Turkish position is now strengthened by the unequivocal support given by Pakistan's president Mirza.

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A. In Turkish eyes, the principle of self-determination is outweighed by both the presence of a large Turkish minority on Cyprus, and by the island's strategic position (only 44 miles from the Turkish mainland) near important Turkish defense installations. Ankara has no faith in Greek stability and fears that Cyprus, in Greek hands, might someday fall under leftist or pre-Communist control.

B. Ankara contends, that, if the Status quo of Cyprus is to be changed, this would necessitate a similar reconsideration of the status of the Greek-held Dodecanese Islands and of Grecian Thrace, all of which are covered by the Treaty of Lausanne (1923).

C. Rapid deterioration of relations between Greeks and the Turkish minority in Thrace has been reported by a reliable American observer. Greek authorities allege that Turkish propaganda is being spread by the Turkish Consulate and by a Turkish member of Greek parliament, urging the Turkish minority to retain its identity and not learn Greek.

D. A border incident in early July, in which a Greek villager was wounded by a Turkish border guard, is the first time in years either Greeks or Turks have fired on each other.

E. General Templer, who recently visited Ankara, expressed the opinion that the Turks would not be averse to "taking a crack" at the Greeks over Cyprus. Templer is convinced that Turkey is not bluffing.

5. Thus, the situation is deadlocked, with both Athens and the Cypriot nationalists refusing to consider the new British constitutional plan, and Turkey indicating that it would accept no more than limited self-government for the island.

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